

3-2-2011

The Daily Gamecock, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media, "The Daily Gamecock, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011" (2011). *March*. 17.
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Tuition hike may increase student debt

Obama's proposed budget reduces scholarship funding, increases interest paid on graduate loans

Kiante Chapman
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Many students can not afford to attend college without some form of government aid. This money-borrowing often results in the accumulation of thousands of dollars of debt.

About 65.6 percent of four-year

undergraduate students in 2007-08 graduated with not only a Bachelor's degree, but debt as well. Those who owed money averaged \$23,186 of debt, according to finaid.org. This amount excludes PLUS Loans but includes Stafford, Perkins, state, college and private loans.

Last year, USC's tuition increased by 6.9 percent, but scholarship amounts remained the same. The gap between awards and cost left current and potential students worried about covering all of their expenses.

"Everything is unbalanced," first-year nursing student Jessica Smith said. "If scholarships don't increase along with tuition, it's going to make lots of people not want to go to college because of the costs."

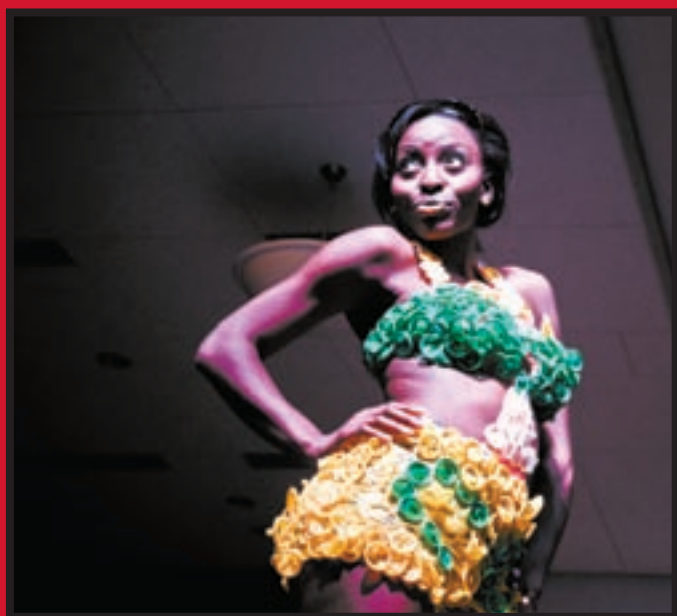
In addition to the increase in tuition, President Obama proposed a budget plan for 2012 that would cut about \$100 billion from higher education programs — such as the Pell Grant — that many students rely on to attend college.

The budget plan, which has yet to be approved by Congress, includes two major

changes. One would end the year-round collection of the Pell Grant.

The other would reduce loan subsidies for graduate and professional students. The government currently pays the interest collecting on loans for these students as long as they remain in school. This new policy would end the government's payment, resulting in grad students having to pay the accrued interest upon graduation. An official in Obama's administration said these changes could potentially save a combined total of \$9

TUITION • 3



Keri Goff and Jeremy Duncan / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Tuesday night's Project Condom fashion show featured 15 student-made designs produced from condoms supplied by One Condoms. After lengthy negotiations, "Waking Up in Vegas" (right) was chosen by the judges as the best design of the night.

Project Condom dresses for sexual success

Annual event promotes safety through fashion

Mary Cathryn Armstrong
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Raincoats, rubbers and jimmies, oh my!

Carolina Productions, Changing Carolina Peer Educators, Student Health Services and Campus Wellness hosted the annual Project Condom fashion show in the Russell House Ballroom Tuesday night. Although the event began shortly after 8 p.m., the house was packed before then, with only standing room available after 7:30. The affair has garnered much recognition from

the USC student body and media alike for its fun, unique designs — all made of condoms.

Now in its fourth season, Project Condom put a new spin on sexual health and awareness in a way that students can both enjoy and learn from. It has also gone global with Project Condoms across the country and even overseas. All of the evening's materials were provided by One Condoms.

Rachel Dahl, a third-year journalism student, had never attended a Project Condom show, but said she was certainly excited to see what the designers had in store.

"I think something like this is a really good idea

for USC," she said. "It gets people excited to talk about and be open with something that is usually considered faux pas."

The show began on a strong note, with volunteers strutting down the runway showcasing umbrellas emblazoned with almost every STD and STI in the book. The message here is simple: Protect yourself in any way you see fit.

"It's always a tricky line to walk when you're discussing sexual health," said Project Condom chairperson Tori Espensen-Sturges, a fourth-year psychology student. "Our main goal with the show is to emphasize all the ways you

can be sexually healthy, whether that be abstinence, using a condom or any other way."

One of the most winning aspects of Project Condom is the fact that the contest is open to students of all majors and interests. Anyone is invited to get involved and teams can range from residence hall floors to individual classes and a vast assortment of student organizations.

For many students, the best part of Project Condom is the designs themselves. The attire comes in a medley of colors, styles and themes, with each outfit more diverse than the last. Models were

CONDOM • 2

SC drivers might face texting ban

License point, \$45 penalty included in proposed bill

Laura Kubic
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Columbia drivers may have to find safer ways to stay in touch, as a recent bill in South Carolina's Senate Judiciary Committee aims to outlaw texting while driving.

The proposal, if approved, would institute a behind-the-wheel texting fine of \$45, which could increase with court fees and other expenses, as well as a point on one's license.

Thirty states, Washington D.C. and Guam have already banned typing, sending or reading text messages while driving throughout the U.S., leaving South Carolina behind in the movement to lower the number of fatalities caused by distracted driving. The U.S. Department of Transportation defines distracted driving as something that is "visually, manually and cognitively" distracting. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, 18 percent of fatalities in distraction-related crashes involved reports of cell phone use.

With tuition, housing and gas prices on the rise, the proposed \$45 fine may deter students from the dangerous activity. But not everyone is happy with it.

"I don't think [texting] should [be] banned because people should be able to stay in touch, but if [texting] directly results in an accident, that person should be held legally responsible," said second-year nursing student Scott Coghill.

First-year marine science student Nicole Grafer agrees with the proposed ban and encourages drivers to be held accountable for their potentially fatal decisions.

"Throw the book at them," Grafer said. "If they're going to endanger not only their own lives but mine as well, they need to be ticketed. I'm from New Jersey so I'm used to bad driving, but throw in a cell phone and you might as well just call it quits."

Third-year exercise science student Sam Baker also said he supports the decision to ban texting to improve driving in South Carolina.

"Most people are bad enough at driving without the help of texting to disrupt their focus too. I think that a ban would really help to improve the safety of South Carolina roads," Baker said.

Advertisements via road signs and television commercials have picked up on the campaign against texting while driving. On Blossom street, a large billboard promotes the slogan, "You Text, You Drive, You Die," which attempts to shock drivers into refraining from engaging in cell phone use while driving.

Numerous studies are also being conducted nationwide to collect evidence on the dangers of texting while driving. Specifically, Amit Almor, an associate professor in the Department of Psychology and Linguistics program at USC, has studied the cognitive challenges necessary to maintain proper driving attention and focus on a cellular

TEXT • 3

WEATHER

Monday

71° 42°

Wednesday

71° 44°

MIX



Andy's Deli

Family-owned sandwich shop Andy's Deli offers delicious food, USC tradition and friendly service.

See page 5

SPORTS



USC downs Furman

The Gamecocks keep their hot streak alive, riding a nine-run sixth inning to a 14-1 victory.

See page 7

ONLINE



Project Condom

Check out video and photo slideshows from Tuesday night's Project Condom fashion show.

Online @
dailygamecock.com

Hardware causes Blackboard outages

UTS moves site to more stable online system

Cassie Stanton
CSTANTON@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Blackboard has failed twice in the past month. On Feb. 8, Blackboard was down because of a hardware failure on one of its servers and on Feb. 25, a power failure occurred on the box that runs the site. In order to fix Blackboard, University Technology Services had a planned outage on Feb. 27, which made the website inaccessible to students for about three and a half

hours, according to UTS's Facebook page. While these inconvenient outages may appear to be a trend, the university typically tries to avoid doing maintenance when students are most likely to be using Blackboard. Helen Epting, director of Public Relations and Development for UTS, said that there is an entire calendar for planned outages and the site is not allowed to have outages during exam week. "We try to do most of our outages either in the middle of the night or very early in the morning," Epting said. After the two failures, Epting said that the Blackboard's system had

become unstable and, during the planned outage on Sunday, it was moved to a more stable system. One USC professor chooses not to deal with the hassle, and instead does not use Blackboard as a teaching tool. "In essence, I find that what Blackboard does is it physically disconnects the professor from the students," said David Decker, a professor of History of Islamic Civilizations. "That physical connection is lost." Decker acknowledged that the website is environmentally-friendly, but he said that when he hands something out in class he can answer

questions immediately and read students reactions. "Plus, my attendance record is better than Blackboard's," Decker said. "I have yet to ... miss a class, but Blackboard fails to show up — and usually at critical moments." UTS tries not to inconvenience students and faculty, but attempts to keep the campus updated through their website, Facebook page and Twitter account. "What you have to do is just prepare for any type of recovery and communicate the best you can, and also plan to have down time if you need it to make any repairs," Epting said.

CONDOM • Continued from 1

dressed from head to toe in condom garb, with designs a la 20s-style flapper to a full-fledged Vegas Showgirl with a condom headpiece. Even an Audrey Hepburn look-alike was present for the affair, dressed as none other than her iconic "Breakfast at Tiffany's" character. And what show is complete without a little Jersey Shore? Snooki and her guido man-candy hit the runway in their condom clothing, drawing many a cheer from the audience. A USC-inspired dress was also a part of the wardrobe, with a garnet palmetto tree proudly adorning the lengthy black gown. Although there was a witty take on many of the show's outfits, sexual health and awareness was certainly the star of the evening. Several

of the outfits promoted STD-prevention, sexual protection and, in the case of designer Roxy Lenzo, the promotion of consensual sex and rape awareness in her green dress and white jacket combo. "I wanted to create an outfit that would resemble something you'd wear on a date," said Lenzo, who is also a member of USC's Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance. "I designed it that way to inform people that anything can happen, and you have to be prepared in any situation." About 15 teams participated in the fashion show but, after the initial runway strut, the finalists were whittled down to six, including USC's SAGE and the Mock Trial Team. After that, each judge was invited to question the teams about their outfits. After a lengthy deliberation, the Vegas Showgirl "Waking up in Vegas" design was named the Project Condom winner, while the audience-voted favorite was SAGE's flowing green gown.

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COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

Police surround Greene Street after report of suspicious package



Parker Jennette / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A suspicious package was reported on Greene Street outside Russell House at approximately 4:45 Tuesday evening. The area was roped off and university police investigated the scene. In less than an hour, the package, an unattended black suitcase, was determined not to be a safety threat and the owner was found, said USC spokeswoman Margaret Lamb.

— Compiled by Taylor Cheney, Assistant News Editor

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billion in one year.

But Obama hopes to increase the maximum Pell Grant award to \$5,550, which does not have to be repaid. This increase may prove to be helpful to many students struggling with college expenses, but a predicted shortfall for the year 2012 would result in the maximum award being cut nearly in half to meet demand.

Fourth-year accounting student Justin Muller is anticipating the cost of graduate school by seeking out ways to curb the

financial debt.

“I am aware that the tuition costs for the Marriage and Family Therapy programs I have applied to will be higher since they are all out-of-state schools,” Muller said. “I am easing this pressure by applying to numerous graduate assistantship positions that will cut some of the graduate school costs. Also, I use my family and my friends as support systems while I find ways to pay for school and deal with the other pressures that come along with graduating.”

USC Financial Aid

Director Ed Miller said increasing tuition should not sway students from the university as there are numerous financial aid opportunities available.

“Rising costs affects students but not to the extent where they cannot attend the university,” he said. “There are means where students can attend that are not limited to scholarships and grants. We help as much as we can to ensure every student has an equal opportunity.”

Comments on this story?
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TEXT • Continued from 1

device.

Currently on sabbatical, Almor strongly advocates the practice of waiting to use a cell phone until the drive has been finished. His research has been reported

in New York Times, India Times, MSNBC news and local Columbia newspapers, and recommends not only texting be banned, but also all use of cell phones while driving, including hands-free devices.

Brain imaging studies

revealed that focusing on both the road and a cell phone can cause a “brain overload” — worse than those of an intoxicated person behind the wheel.

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SC Senate should ban texting while driving

You’re driving back home after spending nine hours on campus. As you travel down Assembly Street, your phone starts making that annoying sound, the one it makes when a friend texts you to find out what the plans are for the evening or when your parents send you the random, “luv u cnt w8 2 c u” message two hours after you’ve left home.

What do you do?
Do you postpone responding until you’ve arrived at your destination or do you choose to risk your life and the lives of others to respond to a text message asking whether you’d rather go to Pavlov’s or Pour House for drinks?

“There is no text, tweet or Google search worth the risk of ending your life...”
Okay, you don’t have to answer that, but — if you’re like most of us — you’d probably choose to reply, not thinking for a second about the dangers associated with taking your eyes off the road or your mind off the primary task at hand — getting safely from Point A to Point B.

If the S.C. Senate Judiciary Committee has its way, those caught texting while driving could soon be charged with a civil infraction and be fined \$45, plus court costs. While we know that a number of you will disagree with us, we support the state’s efforts to ban texting while driving. We’re glad South Carolina is finally catching up with the 30 other states that have already banned this dangerous activity. It’s the responsibility of our government to put laws into place that will keep the public safe. No one should be injured or killed in an car accident that could have been avoided had the driver waited to send a text or tweet from their iPhone.

There is no text, tweet or Google search worth the risk of ending your life or someone else’s. And besides, your friend, your mom, the guy or girl you met last night — they can all wait anyway.

Haley must consider others’ views to solve problems

S.C. governor fails to take bipartisan approach in dealing with budget

Nearly every governor in the nation made a trip to Washington, D.C. last weekend to be a part of the National Governors Association bipartisan Winter Meeting. While most governors were gathered around the capital receiving information about economic development and budgetary issues, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley decided to huddle only with fellow Republicans to bash budget alternatives and promote more drastic and more controversial cost-cutting measures.

The governor decided to skip out on the nonpartisan meetings in Washington, and went straight for the meetings with the Republican Governors Association. Haley’s staff said that the \$100,000 dues to remain a part of the nonpartisan group were just too high in a year with South Carolina facing budget issues. While the governor’s budget-cutting mindset should be applauded, the \$100,000 fee seems almost like a drop in the bucket compared to the \$700 million deficit the state currently



Michael Ulmer
Fourth-year political science student

faces.
Former Gov. Mark Sanford, Haley’s notoriously frugal predecessor, regularly attended the association’s meetings during his time in office and was even open to heading policy panel discussions during his trips to the meetings in Washington. According to an article by James Rosen in The State, Sanford viewed the organization as a very

useful group that represented states’ interests to members of Congress and provided in-depth research for governors.
During her Washington trip, Gov. Haley did step a way from her Republican cronies and chat with TV host Jake Tapper on “This Week,” ABC’s national political show. During her visit to the program, she joined a round table of fellow governors to talk about issues facing the states. She used most of her time to criticize Wisconsin Democrats for avoiding a vote on a budget bill aimed at stripping labor union bargaining rights for public employees. We need our governor to be looking out for

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on [dailygamecock.com](#).

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to [gamecockeditor@sc.edu](#). Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

CORRECTIONS
If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. E-mail [gamecockopinions@sc.edu](#) and we will print the correction in our next issue.

OPINION GRAB BAG

Columnists give their opinions on whether Project Condom is an effective and appropriate way to raise awareness for sexual health

Project Condom is definitely a fun idea. It’s interesting. It’s creative. And what student wouldn’t want to attend a fashion show full of condom dresses? But I’m not exactly convinced that Project Condom is an effective way to raise awareness for sexual health. Modeling condom clothing won’t necessarily cause people to want to use protection more. Furthermore, though there are a lot of people who responded to the event on Facebook to confirm their attendance, there are also many others who don’t know what it is. Perhaps better advertising would spread the word to more people.

Alice Chang, First-year business student

Project Condom does a great job of expressing that people need to use condoms. Project Condom, however, to capitalize on the larger message regarding relationships and how to manage sexual relationships as a whole. It’s great that this group advocates the practice of safe sex to our campus. I have no doubt that these programs effectively spread awareness about AIDS and other illnesses, but shouldn’t it also emphasize the moral and emotional complications of sex? I think it’s great that there will be fewer STIs being spread around, but what about those faced with the damaging and alienating effects of a failed sexual relationship? Those need to be addressed as well, and unfortunately, neither Project Condom nor any known event on campus does so.

Robert Sinners, First-year public administration graduate student

I think Project Condom is an effective program. I attended the fashion show last year and found the evening to be filled with lots of sexual health information and public service announcements. The program shows students that talking about sex isn’t something to be ashamed of and being safe is more important than anything. I’m sure the majority of people who attend the event are going to see the clothes, not to hear about how to use a condom, but the information may help even one person learn something.

Kristyn Winch, Second-year print journalism student

journalism student

While Project Condom is a fascinating idea to promote sexual health, I have my doubts about its effectiveness. I do not believe seeing dresses made of condoms is going to convince very many people of the importance of using condoms. Project Condom is, however, highly effective in fostering communication about sexual health which other organizations and events can then capitalize upon. Thus, while it may not be the best way to discuss sexual health, it is an excellent way to promote sexual health awareness.

Samruddhi Somani, First-year economics student

Project Condom is an excellent way to further the discussion on safe sex. Because of the creativity that designers are allowed to exert, a wide range of topics is touched on. Dresses have promoted safe sex, abstinence, rape awareness, Gardasil use, healthy relationships and much more. Students who attend the event also learn about the number of sexual and health support services that USC has to offer, and hopefully will be more inclined to use them in the future.

Michelle Fantone, Fourth-year political science and sociology student

Considering the age of Project Condom, I commend its effectiveness in getting itself and its message out into the USC community. The promotion of sexual health in creative and interesting ways also promotes discussion of sexual issues, especially in a university setting. However, this kind of discussion needs to take place on both the national level and in younger age groups in order to have any lasting effect on the underlying attitudes toward sex and sexual health. To really promote sexual health and responsibility, then, off-campus and nationwide efforts are the next (major) step for such a program, and I believe Project Condom manages the right balance between fun and functional to achieve real success.

Brooke McAbee, Third-year English student

the people of the Palmetto State and leave Wisconsin politics to the people of Wisconsin.

Regardless of Haley’s views on labor unions, our governor should at least be trying to work with all interests in dealing with our budgetary issues. Her theory on governing, particularly with the budget, however, seems to be that only her ideas and the views of the far right members of her party can make sense of the process.

Solving the state’s budget issues should involve bringing important details to the negotiating table and allowing both parties in the legislature, along with industry leaders and the voters, to express their ideas. The current approach is just to cut from every major program to simply show that the budget is being slashed.

The state has been living beyond its means for too long, but the only perspective, at least in the governor’s office, is to take a hatchet to the budget. We obviously need cuts, and we obviously need reforms, but when those cuts and reforms are coming from a single perspective and we don’t take time to hammer out the details, we risk our state getting hit with even bigger problems sooner rather than later.

Letter to the Editor: Don’t vilify GOP

Republicans must make budget cuts

After reading the article “Republican Budget Cuts Will Hurt Workers” in the Feb. 23 edition of the Daily Gamecock I found myself to be very disturbed. I didn’t completely disagree with the journalist’s argument; I mean, let’s be honest, making budget cuts is hard and painful. Everyone wants funding, and in the end some are simply just cut out.

What bothered me though was that the bigger picture did not present itself in the article. The two most imperative things this Congress can do for America is to balance our budget and rein in spending. These two things are so essential because they are the key fundamentals of helping America address its debt crisis.

The fact is that if it is not addressed we will see a day when our debt reaches nearly 100 percent of our total GDP. Talk about a ripple effect! The fiscal calamity that would be created if we reach those levels would attenuate the world economy and put us into the deepest depression our country has ever seen.

Don’t get me wrong — certain short term policies need to be addressed, and I am well aware that too deep of budget cuts could also cripple the economic recovery. But after the recent report from the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, it is clear as day that we have too much waste and that cuts are crucial.

The point is that the 112th Congress is faced with some very tough decisions, but to simply target and vilify the GOP for wanting to address cuts in certain areas is just iniquitous and ill-timed. This is the epitome of partisan politics. How about a change for once? Let’s see some bipartisan legislation brought to the floor that will help keep America the world’s superpower.

— Tripp Wylie, Fourth-year business and political science student

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The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina.

The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

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Andy’s Deli serves to local crowd

Quality food, tradition keys to success

Kevin Walker
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Andy’s Deli, a local, family-owned sandwich shop on Greene Street, offers USC and Columbia a friendly at mosphere a nd unmatched eats.

Owner Adnan “Andy” Shlon and his two sons, Andrew and Adam, are guaranteed to be behind the counter everyday, greeting customers with a smile. Shlon, 69, continues to work daily 9-hour shifts — a and has provided a huge foundation for the restaurant’s success. This family business has been bustling since 1978 and supplies the same great food it has for decades.

Since serving the shop’s first sandwich in 1978, Shlon has worked under the notion that “all it takes to be successful is honesty and hard work.” These attributes, as well as friendliness, have helped pave the deli’s way to becoming one of Columbia’s favorite eateries. Every customer who walks in the door is greeted with “hello, my

friend” or “hello, my dear,” and Andy’s provides a wel coming atmosphere that keeps customers coming back.

The open dining area is surrounded by walls of windows, creating an outdoor effect, which warms with natural light and allows costumers a view of Greene Street and the Five Points fountain. And, although it more than accommodates for a sit-down experience, the deli’s unbelievably quick service also caters to a n “easy, in-and-out” experience.

Gamecock history runs deep with Andy’s, from old USC cheerleading pictures and trophies to the signatures surrounding the tip jar. Years ago, Gamecock cheerleaders would meet at Andy’s and take pictures before football games. The squad would also decorate Shlon’s Jeep with Carolina stickers and then drive it onto the field to fire up the crowd. Every inch of the restaurant has a story and Shlon is more than willing to share.

Shlon was born in Lebanon and immigrated to Columbia in 1967 where he worked in Five Points until he opened his

restaurant roughly 11 years later. He claims that his experience in the food industry is what helps create the flavorful sandwiches. Knowledge about how to cut the top grade meat is essential, as well as “warming it with your heart,” Shlon said with a chuckle.

Two of the most commonly ordered sandwiches include the Andy’s Special and the Astronaut. The hot roast beef, turkey and ham sandwiches, topped with melted Swiss cheese and bacon bits, have continued to delight consumers for over 30 years.

Andy’s is a restaurant where customers find favorites, however, there is plenty of room for variation. The menu offers not only remarkable sandwiches, but soups, salads, chili, barbecue and Kosher “franks.” The mouth-watering sandwich specials also include chips, a pickle slice and a cup of special sauce on the side.

Andy’s also works with 256-ToGo online delivery service to provide the ultimate convenience to customers. But the deli also has a private parking lot for those who decide to sit in and eat.

Nothing makes a restaurant



George Hinchliffe / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Adnan “Andy” Shlon, owner of Andy’s Deli, answers phones at the Five Points eatery. The deli wins customers with friendliness and ties to USC.

experience more enjoyable than excellent food, quick service and sincerely kind employees. Andy’s Deli fully demonstrates every single one of these aspects and more. Andy and his family are doing more than simply making incredible food — they

are promoting a more positive environment for Columbia. Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., you can call the deli for pick-up orders at 803-799-ANDY.

Comments on this story?
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Courtesy of bulletstorm.com

‘Bulletstorm’ wins gamers with violence, rich colors

Graphics, humorous battle sequences make up for game’s lacking storyline

Aaron Jenkins
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“Bulletstorm”
PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, Windows PC

Developers: People Can Fly, Epic Games
Rating: Mature for blood, gore, intense violence, patrial nudity, sexual themes, strong language, use of alcohol

The environments of “Bulletstorm” are rich with color, its vistas lined with beaches and alien flora washed in warm sunsets. Its world resembles a tropical resort more than a battleground. And appropriately so, because amid the plethora of generic military shooters that currently flood the video game market, “Bulletstorm” is a refreshing oasis of unadulterated, idiotic and violent fun. Unlike the competition, it hasn’t a care in the world.

“Bulletstorm” is essentially a game whose sole purpose is an achievement system and the inane, but frighteningly satisfying, sense of reward that comes with assigning a numerical value to everything. With the game’s list of creative kills (dubbed “Skillshots”), players are encouraged to think outside the box to pull off stylish combo kills. The points earned for completing various acts of comically grisly carnage can then be used to buy more weapons, ammo or upgrades. And then the cycle repeats itself. Everything from kicking enemies into impalement on gigantic cacti to firing rounds into their backsides is encouraged and accounted for.

While the list of Skillshots at first feels contrived and somewhat arbitrary, as the game progresses and more options open up, the system starts to feel strangely natural. What at first is a list of humorously titled mechanics later becomes a sandbox of ideas to draw murderous inspiration from. By the game’s end, wrapping a grenade flail around

an enemy’s head and kicking him into a crowd of mutants will feel as second nature as squeezing off a headshot in any other shooter.

The game is, in many ways, a parody. It ironically revels in all the ridiculous machismo and homo-erotic undertones that run through all games about squads of bald space troopers. The dialogue is hilariously filthy and over-the-top, with profanity that defies explanation (and unfortunately, cannot be printed here). Every sentence is snide and self-aware, but it is still difficult not to laugh in disbelief at what is coming out of the character’s mouths.

As far as the tech, game developer People Can Fly is able to create some truly impressive visuals out of the Unreal Engine. “Bulletstorm” has dozens of massive backdrops that seem to whirl by all too quickly given the dizzying rate at which the player is able to sprint, slide and bulldoze through everything. The game also features a few unique set pieces, such as walking down the side of a skyscraper or using a mechanized Godzilla armed with chain guns to mow down dozens of enemies. It’s all lunacy, but it fits right in amidst the immature chaos that is “Bulletstorm.”

The game isn’t without flaws though. There are times when the story (already inconsequential to the game) suddenly and awkwardly takes on a sem i-serious tone, which feels very out of place. Late in the game, the blistering pace begins to drag and the drama starts to rely heavily on quick-time events. But these are all minor gripes. For the most part, the game knows what it wants to be and achieves it.

“Bulletstorm” harkens back to the days of “Duke Nukem” and “Serious Sam,” when shooters were all about big, dumb fun and nothing more. The developers clearly have some nostalgia for this bygone age, but that doesn’t make the game’s design feel archaic. Quite the contrary — it feels fresh and wholly its own. And though “Bulletstorm” may be one of the dumbest games ever made, that doesn’t stop it from being an absolute blast to play.

Comments on this story?
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Lacking film makes audiences ‘Drive Angry’ on way home

Nicolas Cage falls short of Oscar ability in new flick

Tyler Simpson
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“Drive Angry”
NOW IN THEATERS

Director: Patrick Lussier
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Amber Heard, William Fichtner
Rating: R for strong brutal violence, grisly images, graphic sexual content, nudity, and language

Grindhouse films are known for being absolute guy-bait with their scenes of blood, booze and breasts. They require audiences to completely empty their minds and enjoy endless streams of gun battles, female nudity, flying body limbs and smart-mouthed dialogue.

“Drive Angry” comes off as your typical grindhouse film, combining hillbilly hell with fully-loaded testosterone, with enough swearing, sex and Satanism to satisfy males who want to get a way from their wives or girlfriends. Nicolas Cage continues to fall from his “Leaving Las Vegas” (1995) days and once again shows desperation to pay off his castle mortgage. Cage is a talented actor, but all his recent work has been much lower quality since he won his Oscar.

The story opens with John Milton (Nicolas Cage) shooting down cult members and questioning them about the whereabouts of their leader. Milton is a condemned criminal who has broken out of Hell in order to hunt down and kill the Elvis-attired Jonah King (Billy Burke), who leads a cult that worships Satan and performs Satanist rituals. King murdered Milton’s daughter and took her baby, planning to sacrifice her in another satanic ritual. Joined by the hellcat hash-slinger Piper (Amber Heard), Milton is focused on rescuing his granddaughter while fleeing from Satan’s supernatural operative, The Accountant (William Fichtner).

Despite its best efforts, “Drive Angry” commits a fundamental sin for a film of its genre: it’s completely tedious. With a title like “Drive Angry,” one would expect the film to contain loads of fast and furious driving. Disappointingly, there is not even that much angry driving, though there is plenty to be angry about. It attempts to push some boundaries with a “Shoot ‘Em Up” (2007) style scene that mixes

gun toting with motel room sex.

Cage displays much of the same hellfire imagery as “Ghost Rider” (2007), but this is the extreme R version, Johnny Blaze’s skull insignia motorcycle is replaced with classic Detroit motor vehicles. He once again displays his deadpan style of acting, looking like he is sleepwalking throughout the film with a glassy expression. If he has displayed the same persona from “The Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call — New Orleans” (2009), it definitely would have helped the film. Thank goodness that Fichtner manages to steal every scene, making his character so intriguing and humorously dry.

Heard (probably known better as 406 from “Zombieland”) rides in the front seat with Cage. She wears the indispensable Daisy Duke shorts and a white tank top that seems only to tighten around her chest as the minutes pass. This is a role made for Megan Fox, relying on looking pretty and hitting men in the face.

To its unashamed credit, “Drive Angry” successfully manages to stack its clichés in far-fetched arrangements. For instance, the sacrificial ceremony toward the end of the film is staged as a red-neck themed rave, complete with shooting guns, girls gone wild, a Winnebago and a cooler of beer. This sequence makes Hell on Earth look more like an out-of-control New Year’s Eve drunken bash.

“Drive Angry” may be about a man chasing after a cult, but the film itself is doomed to become nothing more than a cult classic. Like previous grindhouse films, “Drive Angry” refuses to take itself too seriously, with Cage once again going all out in the process.

Comments on this story?
Visit dailygamecock.com/mix



Courtesy of collider.com

Amber Heard plays Piper, Milton’s fiery accomplice, in new film “Drive Angry.”

PhD • By Jorge Cham



HOROSCOPES



ARIES To day y ou may find your perfect partner, but it will require you to step o ut of your shell. Be patient, especially regarding your own goals.

TAURUS Yo ur optimism is contagious. Have you considered a career in public office? Today is a good day to develop your leadership skills. People are listening.

GEMINI Be ambitious and willing. Challenge your old self to bring new ideas to flower. Go outside for fresh air, and find inspiration in trees. Spread your roots.

CANCER The dead autumn leaves feed spring flowers. When the day looks dark, imagine a double rainbow in your future. Be patient. Something’s gestating.

LEO Don’t worry

about up dating y our Facebook status. Get together with friends in real-time instead. You’ll all appreciate it. Add time outdoors moving you r body for extra points.

VIRGO To o much work and no play can make Virgo very dull. Make sure you get plenty of rest. Sitting down looking at a screen can be strenuous. Take a break.

LIBRA A child has the answer. You were one once. Love the memory of that kid, and forgive everything. Your time is too precious to spend it on regret or bitterness.

SCORPIO You don’t need to rea rrange all the furniture to make your home feel like new. It may just require a new plant or some new music. Enjoy your nest.

SAGITTARIUS Use technology wisely to com municate your thoughts. There are people out there who want to hear them. Celebrate diversity, and share words for all.

CAPRICORN Wealth comes e asily when you’re open to rece iving and sharing it. Pay special attention to your insights today. They’re golden. Give back to get more.

AQUARIUS You’re on top of the world, looking down on creation. Celebrate singer Karen Carpenter’s birthday. Celebrate music. Use your vantage point to look ahead.

PISCES To day y ou may encounter the biggest monsters to fight in the most difficult level of this game called life. Learn from the battle, and rest up.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Keri Goff / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Drag queen Carla Cox models her outfit, made of condoms, in the Project Condom Fashion Show Tuesday night. The show was put on by Carolina Productions, Student Health Services, Campus Wellness and Changing Carolina Peer Educators.

Sudoku By The Mephram Group

03/02/11

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	6		3	8
		8		2
	4		1	
		1	3	5 9
	9 5		2	
		7		6 3
		6 5		8
3			9	
1	3			6

Level **1** 2 3 4

How to Play

Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution from 03/01/11

6	2	3	5	1	9	4	7	8
8	5	9	7	4	3	2	1	6
4	7	1	8	2	6	3	5	9
5	1	4	6	7	2	8	9	3
9	6	7	3	8	1	5	4	2
3	8	2	9	5	4	7	6	1
1	9	5	2	3	7	6	8	4
7	3	6	4	9	8	1	2	5
2	4	8	1	6	5	9	3	7

The Scene @USC

TODAY

BEHOLD THE MESSENGER, I CALL FIVES, KID LIBERTY
5:30 p.m., \$8
New Brookland Tavern,
122 State St.

JAMES ERVIN AND FRIENDS
8 p.m., free
The White Mule,
1530 Main St.

TOMORROW

FRANZ NICOLAY, DAVID DONDERO, NED DURRETT AND THE KINDLY GENTS
7:30 p.m., \$7
New Brookland Tavern,
122 State St.

THE MOSIER BROTHERS W/ GRANVILLE AUTOMATIC & NATTY BOH DUO
6 p.m. doors / 8 p.m. show,
\$12 in advance / \$15 day of
show
The White Mule,
1530 Main St.



PONDEROSA, LESLIE
10 p.m., \$7
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

CALENDAR

WHAT: The Buried Life Ticket Sales
WHEN: 7 a.m.
WHERE: Russell House Information Desk

WHAT: Pastafarians Pasta Party Ticket Sales
WHEN: 11 a.m.
WHERE: Greene Street

WHAT: Campus Wellness Programs Choose to Lose
WHEN: 11:30 a.m.
WHERE: RH 305

WHAT: My Carolina T-Shirt Day
WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: Greene Street

WHAT: Safe Zone Ally Development Training
WHEN: 2:30 p.m.
WHERE: RH Keystone Room

WHAT: Farmers Market Advisory Council
WHEN: 3 p.m.
WHERE: RH 348

WHAT: Garnet Circle Meeting
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: RH 302

WHAT: “Speak OUT Loud” Lecture Series
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: Wardlaw 126

WHAT: Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Meeting
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: RH 203

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

03/02/11

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Tuesday 8PM
Shandon House
1804 Greene St.

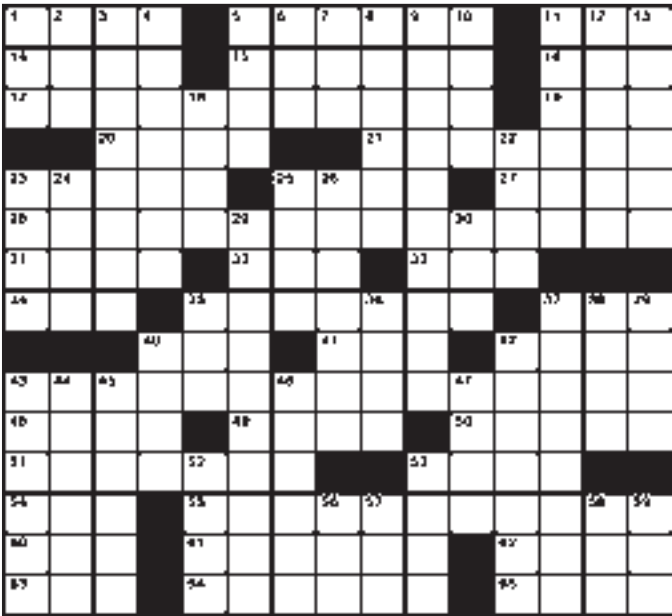


Bible Study
Sunday 10AM
Shandon Baptist
5250 Forest Dr.

ACROSS

- 1 Checkbook no.
- 5 Mason of “The Goodbye Girl”
- 11 Cinephile’s cable channel
- 14 Par
- 15 Delta competitor
- 16 “Turn on the heat!”
- 17 *Yellowstone Park beast
- 19 The Mustangs of the NCAA’s Conference USA
- 20 Work like a dog
- 21 Flooring material
- 23 The Grammys, e.g.
- 25 Egyptian Christian
- 27 Prado hangings
- 28 *Fort McHenry defended it in 1814
- 31 Norwegian noble name

- 32 “__ Yankee Doodle ...”
- 33 Swelter
- 34 50-Across’s st.
- 35 A director may ask for more of it
- 37 Justice Dept. agency
- 40 Curly smacker
- 41 Lacto-__ vegetarian
- 42 Provoke
- 43 *Medical professional
- 48 Puts on the tube
- 49 Tampa Bay squad
- 50 Home of Creighton University
- 51 Seasonal pharmacy offering
- 53 Red ink
- 54 Served dinner
- 55 *Feature of many customer service calls
- 60 Race segment
- 61 Spoke out
- 62 Fit to be drafted
- 63 GPS heading
- 64 Martial arts instructor
- 65 “My word!”
- DOWN
- 1 “Hulk” director Lee



Solution 03/01/11

- 2 __ anglais: English horn
- 3 Forensic test site
- 4 Celebrity gossip show
- 5 Ponder
- 6 Unspecified amount
- 7 Messy barbecue morsel
- 8 Grassy plain
- 9

- Nutritionist’s recommendation
- 10 Hit __ spell
- 11 Engross
- 12 Sleuth played by Peter Lorre
- 13 Less refined
- 18 Pasta often baked
- 22 On one’s guard
- 23 Black, in stanzas
- 24 Low area
- 25 “We get letters” ’50s-’60s TV singer/host
- 26 Rhetorical skill
- 29 Group that goes through the motions?
- 30 “Prince Valiant” character
- 35 Dawn goddess
- 36 Currier’s colleague



- 37 Inexpensively
- 38 Spirited party
- 39 “What’s the big __?”
- 40 Pageant title
- 42 Sam Spade, e.g., slangily
- 43 School fund-raiser
- 44 Astronaut Collins
- 45 Feeling of resentment associated with the last words of the starred answers
- 46 Dirties the dishes
- 47 Cinematic showdown hour
- 52 Wellness gps.
- 53 City near Sacramento
- 56 Aetna’s bus.
- 57 So-so grade
- 58 Rural expanse
- 59 Pops

Gamecocks stay hot, crush Paladins

Offensive explosion pushes Carolina past Furman

James Kratch
JKRATCH@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

As he stepped off the podium following his postgame press conference this past Sunday, Ray Tanner said Steven Neff would likely be the starter for Tuesday's midweek game against Furman. Tanner stressed South Carolina was going to have to rely on Neff the entire season, and it had to get him pitching well after a rough start.

Neff started in Tuesday's 14-1 win over the Paladins. The junior lefty also got back on track. Pitching four shutout innings, Neff allowed only two hits and struck out a career-high seven batters en route to his first win of the season as part of a predetermined split for the No. 4 Gamecocks.

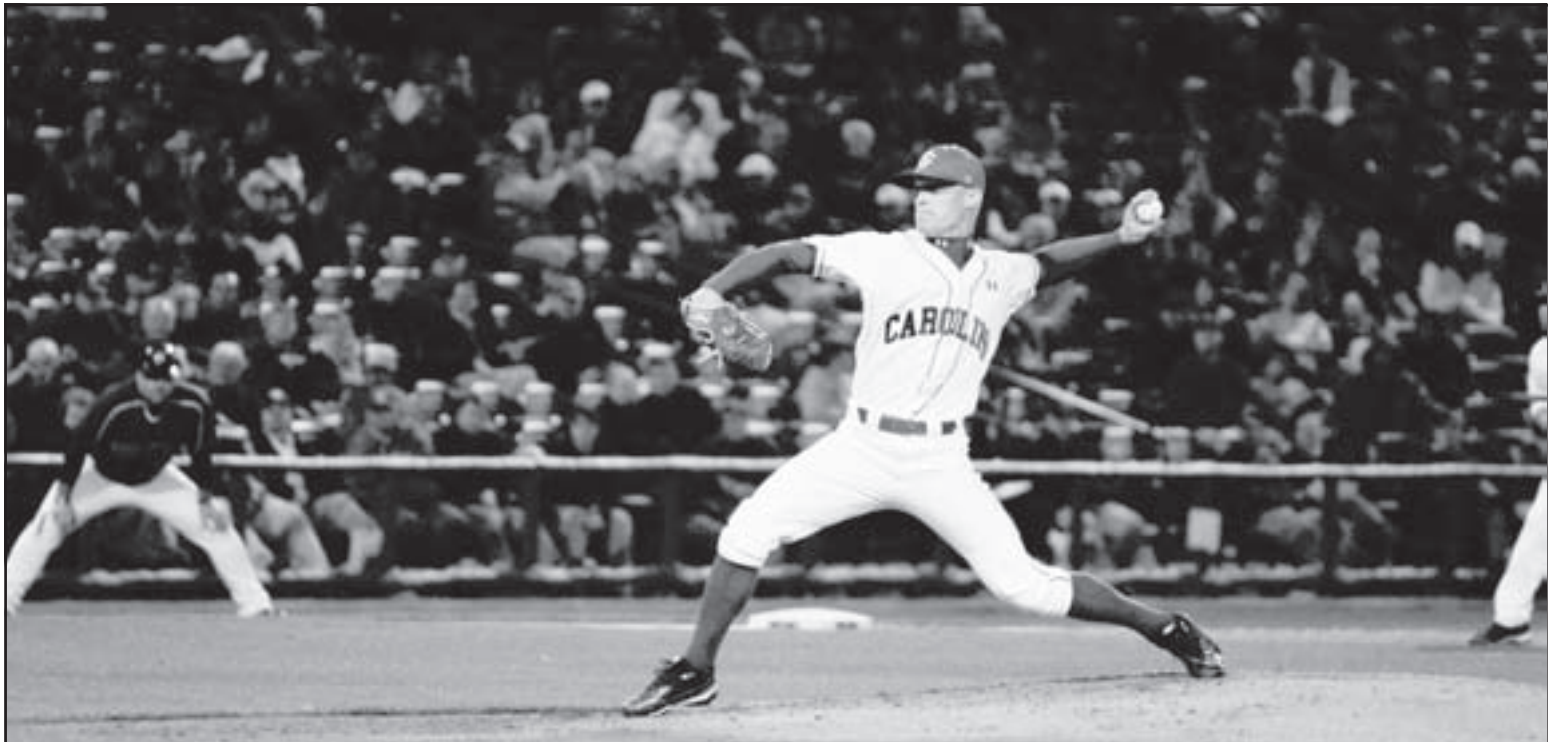
"It felt good to get back out there and start a game again," Neff said. "[The] last outing, I had to put behind me and just start over again."

Neff was edged out by Adam Westmoreland in the preseason for the Sunday starter's spot and came out of the bullpen for the first six games of the season. In two appearances, Neff gave up three runs on six hits in 1.2 innings of work, creating some mild concern about a pitcher Tanner feels his team will need to throw well this spring.

"We met for a while yesterday — he and [pitching] coach [Jerry] Meyers and myself," Tanner said. "We believe in him. He's got a big-time arm. He's fighting his way back from surgery a while back, he was really good before that and we're hoping he can get back there."

The concern was eased a bit Tuesday, and so was Neff's crooked 16.20 ERA, which deflated to 4.76 after his outing.

"What I saw tonight was really good," Tanner said. "He'd probably tell you that he'd like to make a couple more pitches than



Jaimie Falke / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Left-hander Steven Neff earned his first win of the season, pitching four shutout innings while allowing two hits and striking out seven.

he made, but his stuff was really good. He's going to get better as he goes. That was very encouraging to see."

After being held relatively quiet through the first five innings of play, in which they scored two runs, one of which was forced in on a balk, on three hits, the Gamecocks (7-0) broke the game open with a nine-run sixth inning.

After a leadoff double by Jackie Bradley Jr., Christian Walker hit a two-run home run to left field off Furman's Jay Friedman.

"He started me off with a first-pitch changeup," Walker said of the at-bat. "After a pitcher starts off with an off-speed pitch for a ball, you assume the fastball's coming. He threw it and left it up."

The home run, Walker's second of the season, pulled him into a tie with Bradley for the team lead and extended his hitting streak to 13 games, dating back to last year's College World Series.

Moments later, after an intentional walk to pinch hitter Michael Roth loaded the bases with one out, the game began to unravel for the Paladins.

Adrian Morales came around to score on a wild pitch to Scott Wingo, who then walked to load the bases again. After an Adam Matthews pop-up to first base recorded the inning's second out, the Furman pitching staff lost the plate, and by extension, any hopes of winning the game.

Four consecutive Gamecock batters walked, forcing in four runs in the process, before designated hitter Jake Williams singled to left, scoring two to cap the rally and give USC an 11-1 lead. Three more USC runs in the seventh brought the game to its final score.

Nate Smith started for Furman and took the loss, falling to 0-2 after allowing two runs in four innings. It was his second loss to an SEC team this season — Smith lost to

Georgia 6-4 last week. Despite the decision, Tanner praised Smith, saying he made life tough for the Gamecock bats.

"We'd still be trying to score possibly if he was out there," Tanner said. "He has an idea."

Furman (4-5) scored its only run in the sixth inning when Will Owens scored on a wild pitch after doubling and moving to third on an error by Bradley in center field.

After Neff left the game, three USC pitchers combined to pitch the final five innings, allowing no earned runs on three hits and striking out five.

"Very happy about our pitching staff tonight," Tanner said. "We were extremely competitive on the mound."

Comments on this story?
Visit dailygamecock.com/sports

Williams makes most of chance

Outfielder continues to shine, maintains starting position

James Kratch
JKRATCH@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Getting into Ray Tanner's lineup can be tough, especially when South Carolina's 15-year coach has as many quality hitters in his dugout as he does this season. Accordingly, when a player gets a start, he'd be wise to produce and earn more at-bats.

Jake Williams appears to understand this fact. The junior transfer from Wofford got his third consecutive start on Tuesday against Furman. His hot streak with the bat followed. Williams, who served as USC's designated hitter before moving to left field in the eighth inning, went 3-for-5 with three RBIs on the night.

"It's kind of good to get my feet in there [on] a consistent basis," Williams said.

Williams said he was happy to get a nother start, but he doesn't see being in the lineup every day as something he has to achieve.

"If I'm starting or if I'm not starting, I'm still going to try and produce — do as well as I possibly can," Williams said. "Starting, it's a little better feeling, coming in and knowing you're going to be in rather than waiting until the game to see if you're going to be in."

The night wasn't without its adventures for Williams. At the plate with the bases loaded in the sixth inning, after four straight USC batters had walked, Williams thought he himself had received ball four. Flipping his bat, Williams started to trot to first base only to be told the pitch was a strike and he had to return to the plate.

Wanting to calm Williams down, Tanner called time and came out to talk to him.

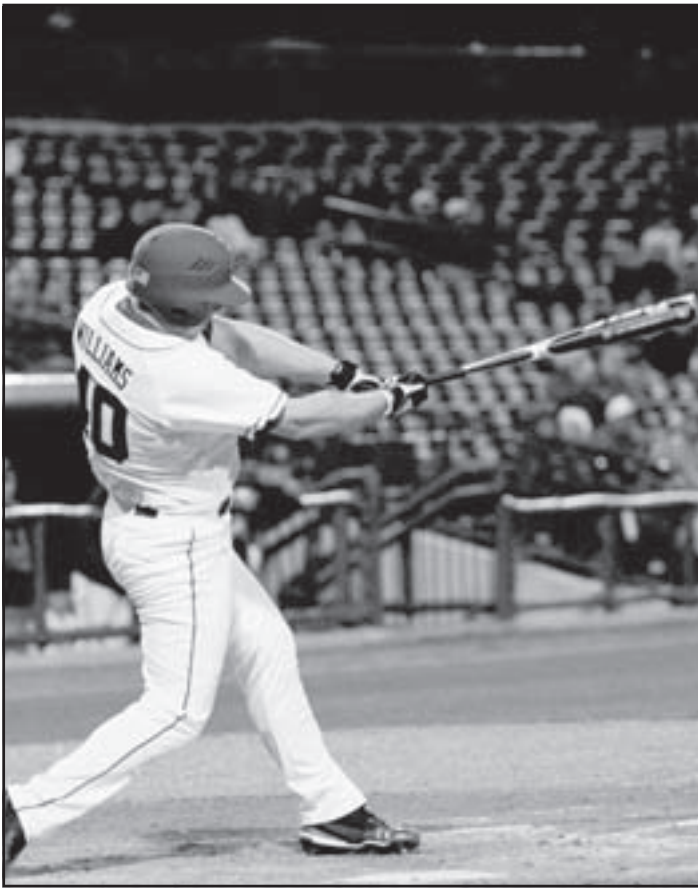
"He just kind of took me aside and said, 'Obviously that was not a strike,'" Williams said. "Just take a second, take a breath, regain your composure."

Williams then proceeded to hit a two-run single to left, capping the Gamecocks' nine-run inning.

In the eighth inning, Williams moved to left field. When a fly ball was lofted to him, Williams slipped and fell, only to pick himself off the ground and recover to make the out.

"There was some dew on the ground and — my first step — I just slipped straight out from under me," Williams said. "Luckily there was enough time to get back underneath the ball."

Holmes throws well: The lingering aftereffects of strep throat made Colby Holmes unavailable in all three games of the season-opening series against Santa Clara. When the sophomore made his debut against Southern Illinois this past Friday, things



Jaimie Falke / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Jake Williams has started three straight games for Carolina and sports a .429 batting average, five RBI and one triple.

went disastrously — three runs allowed on five hits in 0.2 innings of work.

"He missed three or four days of practice that [first] week, so it kind of kept him from getting an opportunity to get his feet wet, and then he wasn't very effective," Tanner said.

However, the righty bounced backed against Furman. Holmes threw three innings in relief of starter Steven Neff, giving up two hits and striking out three. The Paladins pushed their only run of the night with Holmes on the mound, but it was unearned.

"We need for him to pitch well," Tanner said. "There's a lot of games, a lot of opportunities. Whether he's in the starting role or in relief, we need for him to contribute. That was

pretty good tonight. That's encouraging for future opportunities for Colby."

New threads: USC debuted new home uniforms on Tuesday. The Gamecocks wore solid white jerseys with a garnet "Carolina" across the front, along with their traditional garnet cap with the interlocking "SC."

Attendance and time: The announced paid attendance at Carolina Stadium was 6,162, while the game took two hours and 32 minutes.

Solid start: With the win, Carolina improved to 7-0 on the season — its best start since 2009, when the Gamecocks started 8-0.

Comments on this story?
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Softball takes on Winthrop

USC travels to Rock Hill seeking revenge against pesky Eagles

James Kratch
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The first half of USC's softball doubleheader this past weekend against Elon went about as well as could be imagined for the Gamecocks.

Sophomore Audrey Broyles, who is back after a shoulder injury that took away most of her 2010 season, threw a complete game two-hit shutout to lead USC to a 2-0 victory.

"Anytime our pitchers can throw a shutout is something we're going to celebrate," said coach Beverly Smith. "Audrey came out and pitched really well. I would say it's her best performance of the year."

The second game, however, was a different story. USC committed three errors in the field and struggled mightily at the plate, losing 8-1 and snapping a six-game win streak that started on Feb. 18 against Georgetown.

"[The Phoenix are] the defending Southern Conference champions, and I think they lost only one starter," Smith said. "They're a veteran team. They're very good. We didn't perform in Game 2."

After three days of practice, trying to rectify the issues that befell them in that loss, the Gamecocks head north to Rock Hill tonight to face a Winthrop team that has already defeated USC this season.

"They're at the top of their conference," said Smith about the Eagles. "They're very good."

On Feb. 16, Winthrop left Columbia with a 5-2 win over the Gamecocks. That game was also mired by USC defensive struggles. South Carolina committed five errors in the game and the Eagles broke a late 2-2 tie with three runs in the sixth inning to grab the victory. USC will have revenge on its mind, but Smith said the team will be more focused on fundamentals and playing solid softball.

"For us, I think it's just going to be about playing the game," Smith said. "That's what we talked to the girls about. Winning the innings, doing the small things."

Smith knows if they can straighten out the little things, the Gamecocks can win.

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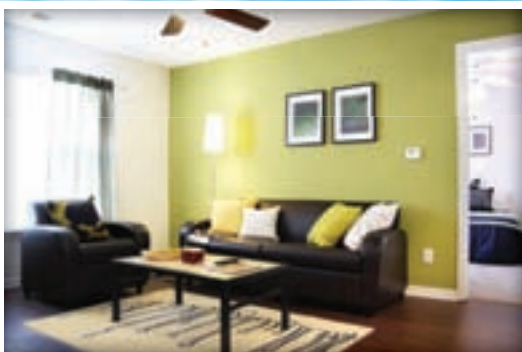
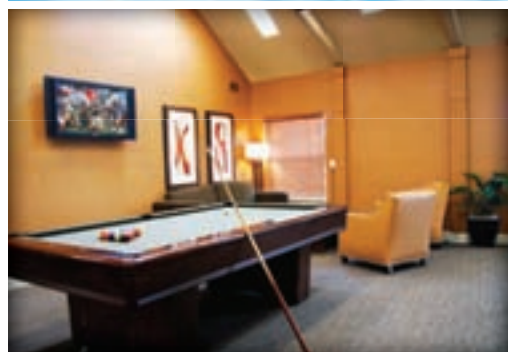
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